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Agenda item 130

# Programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

## Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Justin **Kisoka** (United Republic of Tanzania)

## I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 130 are set out in the report of the Committee contained in document A/67/677.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 23rd, 24th, 26th and 27th meetings, on 4, 8, 15 and 28 March 2013. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/67/SR.23, 24, 26 and 27).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

**Information and communications technology**

Report of the Board of Auditors on the handling of information and communications technology affairs in the Secretariat (A/67/651)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board thereon (A/67/651/Add.1)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/770)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on information and communications technology governance in United Nations system organizations (A/67/119)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/67/119/Add.1)

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**Standards of accommodation for air travel**

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a more effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel (A/66/676)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/739)

Report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/67/356)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/636)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the comprehensive audit of air travel activities and related practices (A/67/695)

**Feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034**

Report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034 (A/66/349)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/7/Add.3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the expanded feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034 (A/67/720)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/788)

**Organizational resilience management**

Report of the Secretary-General on the organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework (A/67/266)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/608)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on business continuity in the United Nations system (A/67/83)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/67/83/Add.1)

**Safety and security**

Report of the Secretary-General on the conclusions of the High-level Working Group on Programme Criticality (A/66/680)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/720)

Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (A/67/526)

Report of the Secretary-General on the use of private security (A/67/539)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/624)

**United Nations Fund for International Partnerships**

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Office for Partnerships (A/67/165 and Corr.1)

**Revised estimates relating to section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for remediation work in the aftermath of storm Sandy**

Report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for remediation work in the aftermath of storm Sandy (A/67/748)

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/67/789)

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.23

4. At its 27th meeting, on 28 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013" (A/C.5/67/L.23), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representatives of Canada, the Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Saudi Arabia (Vice-Chair of the Committee) and Togo.

5. At the same meeting the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/67/L.23 without a vote (see para. 6).

# III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

*The General Assembly*,

### I
### Information and communications technology: report of the Board of Auditors on the handling of information and communications technology affairs in the United Nations Secretariat

*Recalling* section II of its resolution 60/283 of 7 July 2006, its resolutions 62/250 of 20 June 2008, 63/262 of 24 December 2008, 63/269 of 7 April 2009, 64/243 of 24 December 2009, section II of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010 and its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011,

*Having considered* the report of the Board of Auditors on the handling of information and communications technology affairs in the Secretariat,[1] the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board contained in its report,[2] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

*Having also considered* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on information and communications technology governance in United Nations system organizations,[4] as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[5]

*Stressing* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technology to support the work of the United Nations in the areas of peace and security, development, human rights and international law,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Board of Auditors on the handling of information and communications technology affairs in the Secretariat[1] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board contained in its report;[2]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

3. *Approves* the conclusions and recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 28 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, commends the Board of Auditors for the

[1] A/67/651.
[2] A/67/651/Add.1.
[3] A/67/770.
[4] A/67/119.
[5] A/67/119/Add.1.

continued high quality of its work, and welcomes the recommendations issued by the Board to address the root causes and systemic weaknesses hindering progress in the implementation of major business transformation projects and management reform in the Organization;

5. *Also recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the Board as a matter of priority;

6. *Underlines* the importance of information and communications technology in meeting the growing demands of the Organization as it becomes increasingly reliant on its information and communications technology infrastructure;

7. *Also underlines* the importance of information and communications technology in strengthening oversight and accountability and in increasing the availability of accurate and timely information to support decision-making;

8. *Acknowledges* that the lack of effective governance and leadership in the area of information and communications technology has resulted in a high level of duplication and fragmentation of the information and communications technology functions in the Secretariat;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 69 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and stresses the need for improved oversight for the more timely detection of serious issues in the implementation of major projects and initiatives such as information and communications technology;

10. *Notes* that the post of Chief Information Technology Officer has been vacant since 2012, and requests the Secretary-General to accelerate the filling of the position without further delay in order to ensure the effective direction, planning and management of information and communications technology activities;

11. *Recalls* paragraphs 42, 70 and 71 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and its suggestion of a sequential approach to the formulation of a new information and communications technology strategy, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the measures taken to address the priorities identified by the Board in its report, in particular with regard to the implementation of the enterprise resource planning project, Umoja, and information technology security;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose a revised information and communications technology strategy, including lessons learned, by no later than the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, bearing in mind that the purpose of information and communications technology is to support the work of the Organization;

13. *Stresses* that the revised information and communications technology strategy should be based on a thorough analysis of the business environment and its requirements and be aligned with the service delivery model of the Organization, including ongoing and upcoming business transformation initiatives;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in the revised information and communications technology strategy, a comprehensive performance management framework based on well-defined concepts and effective mechanisms and tools for

monitoring, evaluating and measuring the results and impact of the activities implemented, the lessons learned from the problems encountered in the implementation of the current information and communications technology strategy and a detailed, workable implementation plan, as well as a fully justified cost-benefit analysis;

15. *Regrets* the recent insufficient collaboration among the Umoja project team, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and other United Nations Secretariat information and communications technology units;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify and put into place the measures required to ensure the successful implementation of all of the phases of Umoja and to ensure that the Office of Information and Communications Technology and other relevant departments, offices and units are able to support the enterprise resource planning system autonomously in the post-implementation phase in order to increase productivity and cost-effectiveness in service delivery;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of his action plan to strengthen information security as a matter of priority, to ensure the adoption, without further delay, of the information security policy directive and associated policy documents in a manner that assures accountability at all levels of the Organization and to take prompt remedial action to address any hindrances that may arise to the effective implementation of the action plan or the promulgation and enforcement of information security policies throughout the Secretariat;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to provide, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, an update on the status of implementation of the actions taken to address information security issues, including measures taken to guard against any threats of cyber attack;

19. *Recalls* paragraphs 53 and 55 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing software applications and to plan for the necessary migration and decommissioning of systems to enable a smooth transition to Umoja;

## II
## Organizational resilience management system: emergency management framework

*Recalling* section II of its resolution 64/260 of 29 March 2010 and section I of its resolution 66/247 of 24 December 2011, as well as its decision 67/552 of 24 December 2012,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on organizational resilience management, including the comprehensive emergency framework[6] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[7]

*Having also considered* the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on business continuity in the United Nations system,[8] as well as the note by the Secretary-

[6] A/67/266.
[7] A/67/608.
[8] A/67/83.

General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[9]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[7] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Approves* the organizational resilience management system approach as the emergency management framework;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and, while noting that the Secretary-General is not requesting additional financial resources for the implementation of the organizational resilience management framework, requests him to provide a detailed accounting of the full cost of the initiative in the context of the next progress report;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the organizational resilience management system framework in managing operational risks to the United Nations under an all-hazards approach;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session, a progress report on the implementation of the organizational resilience management system, including information on the steps taken to expand the system to include the specialized agencies, funds and programmes;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the report mentioned in paragraph 6 above, to present comprehensive information on the work of the after-action review on storm Sandy, including the action taken to address the shortcomings identified;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant rules, regulations and resolutions are adhered to in the implementation of all aspects of the organizational resilience management framework;

## III
## Feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034

*Recalling* its resolution 60/282 of 30 June 2006 and section A of its decision 66/556 B of 9 April 2012,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034,[10] and on the expanded feasibility study on the United Nations Headquarters accommodation needs 2014-2034,[11] as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[12]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[10,11]

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[9] A/67/83/Add.1.
[10] A/66/349.
[11] A/67/720.
[12] A/66/7/Add.3 and A/67/788.

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[12] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Stresses* the important role of the host countries in their support for United Nations Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters;

4. *Underlines* the historical and architectural significance of the United Nations complex in New York and of the original design of the Board of Design Consultants, without prejudice to the prerogative of the General Assembly to consider all options with regard to the long-term accommodation of United Nations Headquarters;

5. *Notes* that the information provided by the Secretary-General in the expanded study on United Nations Headquarters long-term accommodation needs 2014-2034 is not precise and comprehensive enough to facilitate decision-making by the General Assembly and that it does not give equal treatment to all options considered;

6. *Recalls* paragraphs 52 and 53 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[13] and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a new report on United Nations Headquarters long-term accommodation needs with comprehensive information on all viable options, including additional options not adequately considered or developed in the report of the Secretary-General, ensuring that all options are treated equally, while seeking the most favourable terms for the Organization in all cases, as early as possible in the sixty-eighth session;

7. *Stresses* that the new report mentioned in paragraph 6 above shall also cover factors including, but not limited to, total population requirements with and without the staff of the participating funds and programmes and the financial consequences of the cost-sharing arrangements with them, the impact of the implementation of flexible work arrangements on the capacity of the buildings at the Headquarters compound, the sequencing of United Nations construction projects, the findings from the ongoing review of flexible workspace arrangements and strategies in the Secretariat, the potential impact on the architectural integrity of the United Nations compound, an analysis of the preferable ratio of owned versus leased space for the Organization and possible developments in the planning for the future of the Organization;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 48 of the report of the Advisory Committee and emphasizes that the term "comprehensive information" in paragraph 6 above means information including, but not limited to, short- and long-term financing alternatives for each option, the direct and indirect costs of each option, the net present value of each option, along with the residual value of new construction where relevant and the legal and other risks associated with each option;

9. *Notes* the Secretariat initiative to commission a report on the application of flexible workspace strategies and working arrangements in the Organization, and looks forward to receiving the report of the Secretary-General at the main part of its sixty-eighth session;

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[13] A/67/788.

10. *Decides* that the pursuit of negotiations by the Secretary-General with the intention of keeping option 3 viable shall in no way represent a commitment by the Organization and shall be without prejudice to any decision by the General Assembly, nor shall it entail legal or financial liability for the United Nations;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide information on a regular basis to the General Assembly on the progress of the efforts referred to in the paragraphs above;

12. *Recalls* paragraph 50 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as well as section VII, paragraph 4, of resolution 66/247, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that major capital expenditure projects are not implemented simultaneously in order to prevent the need to finance them at the same time;

13. *Also recalls* paragraph 59 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and section V, paragraph 29, of resolution 67/246 of 24 December 2012, and reiterates its request for comprehensive information and options, as well as financial implications, on the renovation of the South Annex Building and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building, in the context of the eleventh annual report on the capital master plan, ensuring that the commemorative value of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library is respected;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure effective oversight and audit coverage in all phases of the project, including the ongoing feasibility study;

## IV

## Revised estimates relating to section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for remediation work in the aftermath of storm Sandy

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates relating to section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for remediation work in the aftermath of storm Sandy[14] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[15]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[15] subject to provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the Secretariat during and in the aftermath of storm Sandy, with a view to quickly restoring normal working conditions for the staff and resuming the Organization's critical business;

4. *Recognizes* the difficulties in communication faced by Member States and staff during and in the aftermath of storm Sandy, and, in that regard, requests the Secretary-General to present, at the first part of the resumed sixty-eighth session, comprehensive information on the work of the after-action review of storm Sandy, including the actions taken to address the shortcomings identified, in order to reduce the vulnerability of United Nations Headquarters to future flooding events and other emergencies;

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[14] A/67/748.

[15] A/67/789.

5. *Affirms*, as illustrated by the aftermath of storm Sandy, the importance of accountability and oversight in the effective functioning of the emergency management framework, particularly in the areas of governance, communication, physical infrastructure and business continuity;

6. *Welcomes* the delineation of responsibilities among the various heads of departments and senior managers for the implementation of prevention, mitigation and recovery measures;

7. *Notes* that without the timely implementation of the Secretary-General's proposed remediation measures, the Organization runs the risk of significant, uninsurable financial exposure;

8. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the biennium 2012-2013 of up to $6,063,400 under section 34, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, for mitigation work, encourages all efforts to minimize costs within this section, in the most efficient manner, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

9. *Recalls* paragraph 8 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to implement the remediation and mitigation work at United Nations Headquarters in an immediate manner in order to avoid delays in the implementation of the capital master plan and enable its completion within the approved schedule;

10. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the biennium 2012-2013 of up to $131,421,300 to enable remediation work, and requests him to report thereon in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget, to be submitted at the main part of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

11. *Notes* that the cost of the remediation work is expected to be reimbursed under the terms of the insurance policies held by the United Nations up to an estimated amount of $137,851,400;

12. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to submit the vast majority of the insurance claims relating to storm Sandy by 31 December 2013 and, in that regard, requests him to ensure the timely submission of all insurance claims in order to expedite reimbursement and to report on the status of reimbursement and the insurance claims process in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

13. *Notes* that the total estimated amount of non-recoverable damages may amount to a maximum of $11,069,900, and requests the Secretary-General, subject to the outcome of the insurance recovery efforts and the Secretariat's prioritization of equipment and other content of which replacement is essential, to make efforts to minimize expenditure by seeking efficiencies during the course of the remediation work, and to report on those efforts in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and decides to authorize the Secretary-General to use the Working Capital Fund as a cash flow bridging mechanism to cover payments pending the receipt of insurance settlements, and requests the

Secretary-General to closely monitor the cash position of the Organization so as to ensure that other operations are not put at risk and to report thereon to the General Assembly on a regular basis within existing mechanisms;

15. *Decides* to establish a multi-year special account for insurance recovery and expenditure relating to the damage in the aftermath of storm Sandy until 31 December 2015, with the possibility of extension beyond that date depending on the status of the insurance claims process;

16. *Also recalls* paragraph 9, section X, of its resolution 67/246, and requests the Secretary-General to include information on the cash balance of the special account in the forthcoming monthly information on the cash situation of the Organization;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to closely monitor the insurance market, including all means of risk mitigation, with a view to securing adequate coverage for all United Nations installations exposed to natural hazards and emergencies at a reasonable cost and to report thereon at the first part of its resumed sixty-eighth session;

## V
## Safety and security management system for the United Nations

*Recalling* section XIV of its resolution 65/259 of 24 December 2010, its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011, section A of its decision 66/556 B of 9 April 2012 and its decision 67/552 of 24 December 2012,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the conclusions of the High-level Working Group on Programme Criticality,[16] his comprehensive report on the United Nations Department of Safety and Security[17] and his report on the use of private security,[18] as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[16,17,18]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

### Safety and security

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff, operations and premises;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in strengthening the security management system for the coordination of security arrangements for the Organization;

5. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring full accountability for compliance with safety and security policies and guidelines and of monitoring managerial performance throughout the United Nations system, and, in that regard, requests the Secretary-General to continue to report thereon in the context of his relevant reports;

[16] A/66/680.
[17] A/67/526.
[18] A/67/539.
[19] A/66/720 and A/67/624.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen his cooperation with host Governments in order to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to ensure the mainstreaming of safety and security in the implementation of mandated programmes and activities of the United Nations system;

8. *Recalls* paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[20] and requests the Secretary-General to provide information in that regard in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017;

9. *Reiterates* the principle that the United Nations Secretariat, organizations, funds and programmes share a common responsibility for the safety and security of their staff and that funding for safety and security, based on cost-sharing arrangements, should be clear, predictable and secure, and, in that regard, invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to keep under review cost-sharing arrangements with all participating entities;

**Use of private security**

10. *Notes* that the United Nations is called upon, as an exceptional measure, to use armed security services from private security companies to secure the premises and personnel of the Organization;

11. *Stresses* that such services should be used as a last resort to enable United Nations activities in high-risk environments only when a United Nations security risk assessment concludes that other alternatives, including protection by the host country, support from the Member States concerned or internal United Nations system resources are inadequate;

12. *Also stresses* the importance of ensuring that all measures are undertaken to avoid legal and reputational risks for the Organization in using armed security services of private security companies;

13. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a policy to guide the use of armed security services from private security companies, and requests him to consider disseminating information on that policy as widely as possible, in all six official languages of the United Nations, taking into account relevant security considerations, to ensure the proper enforcement of the policy, and to continue to report to the General Assembly on the use of armed security services from private security companies;

14. *Recalls* paragraph 7, section XIV, of its resolution 65/259 and, in that context, encourages the Secretary-General to continue to use armed security services from private security companies as an exceptional measure and a last resort;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all appropriate measures to ensure that, when using security and protection services from private security companies, the selected companies operate in accordance with the national legislation of the host country and the Charter of the United Nations and fully abide

[20] A/67/624.

by the relevant principles and rules of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[20] and acknowledges that the policy implications of the use of private security by the United Nations may raise substantive and legal issues that may be of interest to other Committees of the General Assembly, in addition to the Fifth Committee, and in that regard, requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant substantive bodies, to present a proposal for ensuring that such substantive and legal issues are duly addressed by the relevant expert or intergovernmental bodies, as appropriate, in the relevant reports to the General Assembly;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide clarification on the operational criteria for when the use of armed security services from private security companies could be appropriate for United Nations operations at Headquarters and field locations and to report thereon in the relevant reports to the General Assembly;

**Programme criticality**

18. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[21] on the conclusions of the High-level Working Group on Programme Criticality, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to submit for consideration and approval at the sixty-ninth session, a report containing the final conclusions of the High-level Working Group on Programme Criticality;

19. *Acknowledges* the programme criticality framework as an instrument to assist managers in the field to take time-sensitive decisions to prioritize programme activities in specific locations in response to changes in local security conditions;

20. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[21] and emphasizes that the programme criticality framework shall not affect intergovernmental oversight and accountability to the legislative bodies;

21. *Also recalls* paragraph 13 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[21] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure coherence and consistency between the proposed programme criticality framework and other related initiatives of the Secretary-General and to report thereon in the relevant reports;

## VI
## Standards of accommodation for air travel

*Recalling* its resolution 42/214 of 21 December 1987, section IV, paragraph 14, of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, section IV of its resolution 60/255 of 8 May 2006, section XV of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, section II of its resolution 63/268 of 7 April 2009 and section IV of its resolution 65/268 of 24 May 2011, as well as its decisions 57/589 of 18 June 2003 and 66/556 B of 9 April 2012,

[21] A/66/720.

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on proposals for a more effective and efficient utilization of resources for air travel[22] and on standards of accommodation for air travel[23] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the comprehensive audit of all air travel activities and related practices,[24] as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[25]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;[22,23]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;[25]

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[24] and encourages the Secretary-General to implement all the recommendations therein and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

4. *Looks forward* to the successful roll-out of Umoja in air travel business administration of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at the session immediately following the roll-out, a comprehensive report on the effects of Umoja application in travel administration, including updated information, trends and analysis in all areas relating to air travel in the United Nations;

5. *Notes* that the Secretary-General has not provided the information requested by the General Assembly in section IV, paragraph 13, of its resolution 65/268, and stresses the importance of the provision of accurate, complete and comprehensible data as the basis for sound management and effective oversight of all costs relating to air travel;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the beginning of the main part of its sixty-eighth session on the projected total expenditure on air travel under the regular budget, by budget section, including payments under lump-sum schemes, for the biennium 2012-2013, with corresponding data for the bienniums 2010-2011 and 2008-2009;

7. *Recalls* section 2 (e) of the annex to resolution 65/268, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor industry best practices in the area of frequent flyer miles and to report to the General Assembly on any new trend that could be utilized to take stock from frequent flyer miles to improve the administration of travel;

8. *Recognizes* the efforts by the Secretary-General in initiating the 16-day advanced booking of tickets, requests him to make every effort to reduce short-notice travel and to ensure that trips are booked as much in advance of the travel date as possible, and also requests him to ensure that all managers in charge of air travel administration, including those in the peacekeeping missions, are informed of and comply with such provision;

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[22] A/66/676.

[23] A/67/356.

[24] A/67/695.

[25] A/66/739 and A/67/636.

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the option of full online booking under review in the context of the implementation of Umoja and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

10. *Recalls* recommendation 17 in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[24] and requests the Secretary-General to strictly abide by the rules and procedures governing the procurement process in the United Nations system;

11. *Recognizes* recent efforts by the Secretary-General to use alternative methods of procurement, which resulted in a reduction in costs in 2012, and requests him to further explore other possible options for the procurement of air travel services, taking into account the experiences of other organizations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to maintain the use of preferred carrier arrangements offering competitive rates;

13. *Decides* that, for official travellers below the level of Assistant Secretary-General, the standard of accommodation for air travel will be business class if a single-leg journey is 9 hours or more and will be business class for a multi-leg journey if the combined travel time of the journey is 11 hours or more, including a maximum of 2 hours of connection time, provided that the journey to the next destination resumes within 12 hours;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to modify his administrative instructions on standards of accommodation for air travel so that the duration of a journey shall be determined based on the most economical route available, provided that the total additional time of the whole journey does not exceed the most direct route by four hours;

15. *Decides* that the Secretary-General shall, as an interim measure pending the outcome of the review to be concluded in 2015, revise the provision for determining the travel-related lump-sum payment to 70 per cent of the least restrictive economy class fare, and requests the Secretary-General to include, in his report on the standards of accommodation of air travel to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, an analysis of the impact of the implementation of this provision and to make further proposals on modifying the lump-sum scheme;

16. *Notes* the increasing frequency and costs of exceptions to the standards of accommodation for air travel, and requests the Secretary-General to take action to limit the use of exceptions, to conduct an analysis of the trends in the use of exceptions and to present proposals for enhancing controls in this area no later than the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the use of exceptions for the category of prominent persons and to report thereon in the context of the report requested in paragraph 16 above;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[26] and, in that regard, requests the Secretary-General to clarify any proposals to encourage other modes of transportation;

19. *Also recalls* section IV, paragraph 4, of its resolution 65/268;

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[26] A/66/739.

20. *Decides* that the changes set out in the present resolution shall not affect the current standards of accommodation for air travel and daily subsistence allowance of members of organs and/or subsidiary organs, committees, councils and commissions of the United Nations.